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ALSOPHILA AESCULARIA D. & S. (MARCH MOTH): HORSE CHESTNUT AS A MAJOR LARVAL PLANT. — At Dartford in late June 1980 I found a number of greenish, striped looper caterpillars among the leaves on twigs issuing from the tree trunks where branches had been removed, the leaves displaying a distinct ragged appearance. I was unable at first to identify the larvae, as were several other lepidopterists to whom they were shown. However, I noticed the caterpillars possessed a pair of rudimentary prolegs on the segment preceding the first pair of prolegs and that suggested they belonged to the small group of moths which includes *aescularia*. The three textbooks at my disposal, the standard works by E. Newman and R. South, and W. Stokoe's '*The Caterpillars of the British Moths*', all provided inadequate descriptions omitting mention of rudimentary prolegs, and the latter author misleadingly describes the larvae as being 'small', whereas they are large in relation to the size of the moth. The illustration in 'South' is poor, and that in 'Stokoe' quite ludicrous. However, reference to the excellent illustrations in W. Buckler's '*The Larvae of the British butterflies and moths*', solved the problem. In the locality referred to almost all of several dozen trees produced *aescularia* larvae, and horse chestnut would appear to be the main larval foodplant, although neither Chalmers-Hunt nor L. and K. Evans record *aescularia* from this tree in their local works on the lepidoptera of Kent and N. E. Surrey respectively — B. K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Bexley, Kent.